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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/799,355	SCHULTZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Rodney B. White	3636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed 8/15/2005 and the letter filed 8/31/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 27-34 and 37-44, renumbered 1-16.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

27. (Twice amended) A sling tightening mechanism comprising:

a frame of a piece of furniture, said frame having an outer surface and an inner surface, said frame being a generally hollow member, said frame having an opening in said outer surface;

a knob on said inner surface of said hollow member, said knob aligning generally with said opening in said [member] frame;

a threaded member, said threaded member having a first end and a second end, said first end of said threaded member adapted to be connected to said knob;

a generally hollow connector member, said connector member having a first end and a second end, said first end of said connector member adopted to receive said second end of said threaded member, said connector member having an outer surface and an inner surface, said second end of said connector member extending from the outer surface of said frame;

an attachment frame attached to said outer surface of said connector member, said attachment frame adapted to hold a sling; and

a tightening means, said tightening means received by said connector member and said threaded member, said tightening means [being capable of rotating] rotatable, [to push] and pushing said connector member over said threaded member [to make] making said sling taut when said tightening means is rotated.

37. (Currently Amended) A sling tightening mechanism comprising:

a frame of a piece of furniture, said frame having an outer surface and an inner surface, said frame having an opening, said frame having a knob on said inner surface of said frame generally aligned with said opening in said frame;

a connector member, said connector member having a first end and a second end, said first end of said connector member [adopted] adapted to be inserted into said opening on said frame; said connector member having an outer surface and an inner surface;

an attachment frame removably connected to said second end of said connector member, said attachment frame adapted to hold a sling, said attachment frame having a member with an orifice therein;

a tightening means, said tightening means received by said connector member and said opening in said frame member, said tightening means [being capable of] tightening said sling as said tightening means is rotated.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: While Holmes et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,113,186) teaches a sling very similar in structure to the present invention, such as the frame piece 54 of furniture being a generally hollow member, an opening 74 in the frame member, a knob 86 on the inner surface of the hollow member and aligning with the hole, a threaded member 78 connected to the knob 86, a generally hollow connector member 72, and an attachment frame 58 or 62 connected to the connector member adapted to hold a sling, it does lack the tightening means received by the connector member and the threaded member, the tightening member rotatable to push the connector member over the threaded member to make the sling taut, as defined in claims 27 and new claim 37. Holmes et al achieves this feat without any additional tightening means.

The Examiner's Amendment was done to correct antecedent basis problems, such as changing the word "member" in claim 27, line 5, to - - frame - - and to correct grammatical errors with thin claim 1 as well get rid of functional language to more clearly define the limitations without changing the scope of the invention or making the claims more narrow.

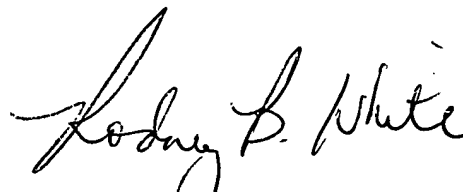
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rodney B. White whose telephone number is (571) 272-6863. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Cuomo can be reached on (571) 272-6856. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Rodney B. White,
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3636
September 9, 2005



RODNEY B. WHITE
PRIMARY EXAMINER